

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Council of the Faculty of Arts and Science

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday, March 20, 1992

- Present:** G. Valaskakis; M. Yates; B. Harris; P. Bird; S. Carter; F. Stevens; C. White; C. Foster; J. Appleby; J. Gavin; P. Widden; M. Brian; R. Pallen; E. Preston; G. Kanaan; B. Lewis; W. Knitter; G. Auchinachie; J. Woodsworth; W. Sellers; L. Crysler; J. Locke; P. Allen; W. Byers; A. Teffeteller; C. Gray; R. Sharma; N. Segalowitz; I. Robinson; M. Ainley; S. Hoecker-Drysdale; G. Newsham; C. Potworowski; M. Pruska-Carroll; J. Snyder; D. Awasti; K. Beaudoin; K. Clément; H. Halsall; D. Haufschild; A. Leonhardt; B. Leonhardt; C. McManaman; D. Parent.
- Regrets:** M. Mendell; J. Anderson; S. Kumarapeli; C. Lévy.
- Absent:** J. Lightstone; M. Kusy; G. Fisher; H. McQueen; G. Decarie; J. Fiset; J. Vidmar; J.F. Plamondon; E. Brown; E. Chan; S. Desjardins; M. Innes; C. Nero; G. Pahinis; P. Toone.
- Guests:** P. Calce; B. Williams.

Documents Distributed and Considered at this meeting:

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| ASFC 92-3M-A | Elections/Ratification - Arts and Science Faculty Committees |
| ASFC 92-3M-B | Report 76U - Undergraduate Curriculum Course Changes |
| ASFC 92-3M-C | Report 77G - Graduate Curriculum Course Changes |
| ASFC 92-3M-D | Computer Resources in the Faculty of Arts and Science - A Situational Analysis |
| ASFC 92-3M-E | Memo to Arts and Science Faculty Council from B. MacKay, Chair, Academic Programmes Committee |

1. Call to Order

Dr. Valaskakis called the meeting to order at 2:12 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Valaskakis asked that under Item 8 on the Agenda, the Document number be changed to ASFC 92-3M-C.

92-3M-1 It was moved and seconded (Gray/Auchinachie) that the Agenda be approved as amended.

Carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes

92-3M-2 It was moved and seconded (Robinson/Segalowitz) that the minutes of the Arts and Science Faculty Council meeting held Friday, February 21, 1992 be approved as circulated.

Carried.

4. Remarks from the Chair

Dr. Valaskakis told Council that the University was in the process of looking at the provisional budget; both operating and capital. The budget had gone through SCAPP (Senate Committee on Academic Planning and Priorities) and would be going through Senate. One item to note was that there would be a 20% cut in the capital budget allotted to the faculties for one year only. This was to update and purchase equipment for Physical Plant. Should the provincial government fund the university in the total amount promised, the 20% would not be deducted from the faculty's capital budget. One of the priorities of Arts and Science was the library budget which was included in the provisional budget. One that had not been included was employment equity for female faculty hiring and this concern had been raised with the Vice Rector, Finance.

Dr. Bird discussed some of the problems he was trying to solve in fitting the seven Arts and Science departments slated to go into the new library building into the space available to him. He had had to be creative in this project by cutting frills such as staff lounges and hoped to be able to arrange one communal lounge per floor.

Mr. Parent made an appeal for space to be allocated in the new library building for undergraduate students in general and for the History Students' Association in particular.

Mr. Awasti lent support to Mr. Parent's arguments reminding Council that the students were the life blood of the institution.

Dr. Bird advised Mr. Parent that he should go through CUSA, the students' association.

5. Questions and Announcements

Mr. Parent asked what was happening with respect to the Hindu Studies Chair. He asked what was being done to replace the former Chair who recently passed away. He also asked for clarification regarding the funds for this chair; wanting to know if the funds were still intact.

Dr. Robinson responded that the Hindu Studies Chair was in the Department of Religion which initiated a search to replace the late Dr. Sivaraman last autumn. The department, in consultation with the Montreal Hindu Community, had made a recommendation for a replacement to the Vice Rector, Academic. The chosen candidate was under contractual obligation to his present university for another year. Therefore the department intended to hire a replacement on a one-year contract. The funds for the Hindu Studies Chair were an endowment which was maintained by the university. The funds were not the responsibility of the Department of Religion nor were they available for use by either the department or the university.

Mr. Awasti asked whether it was possible to find out how much was in the fund and how the money had been spent in the past.

Dr. Robinson replied that question was one that he was unable to answer.

Dr. Valaskakis explained that the money was accounted for and that the faculty's Budget Manager did not manage these accounts. She said that queries would have to be addressed to Treasury.

Mr. Awasti announced that the Canadian Centre on Racism and Prejudice in conjunction with a number of university organizations at McGill and Concordia was holding a conference on Academic Racism at the University of Montreal, at 2332 Edouard Montpetit.

Because Mr. Awasti thought that this would be the last meeting attended by the students, he used the opportunity to thank his fellow students for serving on Council and expressed the hope that the members of Council would look upon the students as allies and not as adversaries.

Dr. Valaskakis thanked Mr. Awasti and the other students for their work over the past year and said that she hoped the students would be at the May meetings. She stressed the importance of attending Council and Steering Committee meetings.

6. Elections/Ratification - Arts and Science Faculty Committees

Arts and Science Faculty Council Status of Women Committee

Dr. Maria Peluso (POLI)

Acclaimed

Arts and Science Faculty Council Committee to Propose Nominees for Honourary Degrees

Professor Katherine Waters (ENGL)

Dr. Elaine Newman (BIOL)

Acclaimed

Ms. Kim Beaudoin

Ratified

Council of the School of Graduate Studies

Three-year terms

Dr. Gerald Auchinachie (ENGL)

Dr. Mary Vipond (HIST)

Two-year terms

Dr. John Jackson (SOCI)

Dr. Gerald Dewey (SOCI)

One-year term

Dr. Daphne Fairbairn (BIOL)

Elected by secret ballot

7. **Report 76U - Undergraduate Curriculum Course Changes**

92-3M-3 It was moved and seconded (Stevens/Preston) that Arts and Science Faculty Council approve Document ASFC 92-3M-B Report 76U, Undergraduate Curriculum Course Changes for the 1993/94 calendar, as circulated.

Dr. Stevens thanked the members of the Faculty Curriculum Committee for their dedication and hard work: Mary Brian (MATH and Centre for Mature Students); Anne Galler (LIBS); Dan Otchere (ECON); Eileen Preston (CLAS); Eyvind Ronquist (ENGL); John Sullivan (EXCI); Mary Vipond (HIST); David Parent (HIST). They participated in long weekly meetings. The proposed changes were looked at for content, punctuation and their wider implications for a program. Dr. Stevens also thanked her staff for putting in long hours to meet deadlines and to prepare these documents for Council.

Dr. Stevens said that in the future, she would like to submit a summary of the proposed changes to Council except where major changes were being made rather than such a detailed package as was distributed for this March meeting. She would propose this to Steering Committee to come to Council in May.

Dr. Stevens walked Council through the changes.

Dr. Ainley requested clarification on the SCH A courses. She wished to know if the content had been changed.

Dr. Stevens responded that prerequisites had been added so that students would have an adequate background. By removing the numbers I and II, the courses could now be taken in any order. She understood that the program was considering major changes but would do so only after the appraisal process.

Carried.

92-3M-4 It was moved and seconded (Stevens/Brian) that Arts and Science Faculty Council approve Document ASFC 92-3M-C Report 77G, Graduate Curriculum Course Changes for the 1993/94 calendar, as circulated.

Dr. Stevens introduced the changes and asked Dr. Williams to talk about the changes to the MPPPA in Political Science.

Dr. Valaskakis requested speaking privileges for Dr. Blair Williams from the Department of Political Science. There were no objections.

Dr. Williams said that the changes were intended to simplify and update the program, to broaden areas of concentration and bring them more in line with departmental resources and students needs. There was no dramatic shift in where the program was going.

Dr. Hoecker-Drysdale asked for a comment about the perspective or emphasis on political economy.

Dr. Williams pointed out that many of the courses were already offered but only as slot courses. They had broadened the program to allow for global and international issues.

Dr. Pallen noted that it stated there were no resources implication yet 15 new courses had been added.

Dr. Williams explained that only one or two courses had been added to the regular schedule. These courses would be offered on a rotational three-year basis.

Dr. Valaskakis added that the only resource implication might mean one or two part-time sections.

Dr. Stevens said that the new courses would be covered by faculty being hired at present.

Mr. Parent asked about the change in the credit value of the thesis from 15 credits to 12 credits. The Honours Program in Political Science did not require an undergraduate thesis. This seemed to be moving away from emphasis on the importance of research and writing although students were continually being told that these were important skills.

Dr. Williams said that on balance, the committee felt that the emphasis on courses was more important. He reminded Council that the program started without a thesis component at all. The thesis was slightly different to that in the "pure humanities" or "pure sciences". Writing was certainly an important part of the courses required in the program.

Dr. Newsham asked why the graduate curriculum proposals were signed by the Chair but the undergraduate curriculum proposals were not.

Dr. Stevens explained that changes would be made in the future in an entirely different way. There would be no more forms; a diskette would be sent to every department and the changes returned on the diskette. However, the sheets approved by Council would go back to departments for the Chair's signature, today's included. She assured Council that all changes presented today had been

approved by departments.

Dr. Hoecker-Drysdale asked if the courses would be open to graduate students in other departments.

Dr. Williams said that they certainly would be open but the program had 140 students of its own so that there could be a space problem. However, one of the thrusts was to make the program more interdisciplinary. Their main problem was space.

Mr. Awasti hoped, as a Political Science student, that Dr. Williams was not putting forward the notion that there was no original research done in Political Science. He hoped Dr. Williams was not using that as an excuse to simply set aside the idea of developing good writing skills.

Dr. Williams said that the department felt it was important but not as important as 15 credits would warrant.

Carried.

9. Computer Resources in the Faculty of Arts and Science - A Situational Analysis

Dr. Valaskakis thanked Dr. Charles White, Vice Dean, Academic Planning and his Computer Resources Committee for their work in producing the document. There was no discussion on the document.

10. Other Business

92-3M-5 It was moved and seconded (Stevens/Beaudoin) that Arts and Science Faculty Council approve Document ASFC 92-3M-E.

Dr. Valaskakis explained that the document had arrived after Steering Committee had met for this meeting. She had contacted as many members of Steering Committee as possible and they had agreed that this document should be brought forward to Council as an extraordinarily measure.

Dr. Stevens introduced the document. APC had been looking at the question of the INC notation for some time. Last year, "double counting" was eliminated in calculating annual GPAs. It was noticed that there was an inequity in the calendar statement which meant that students who were on probation or in conditional standing were not allowed to have additional time to complete the

course work. It was felt that this was not fair. This motion was to remove the phrase "When students are on probation or in conditional standing and have received an R grade in the course they are not eligible to apply for late completion." so that it would read, "students who are repeating a course for a second time having received an R grade, would not be allowed to have extra time to complete the course work.

Dr. Hoecker-Drysdale supported the motion. She felt that it was unfair to punish those who needed the most consideration. However, she felt that the change in deadlines on the first page of the document did not leave enough time for instructors to submit their grades.

Dr. Stevens explained that these dates had been approved by the students on APC, before being approved by Senate and were already in the calendar. Students had argued that a period of more than six weeks meant that students would be into the next term and would have to keep up with current course work as well as complete work from the previous term.

Dr. Hoecker-Drysdale felt that it was fair to give students extra time to complete the work, but that there was not sufficient time for professors to grade the work and submit the grades within the time frame laid out in the document. She would appreciate more discussion on the dates.

Dr. Stevens explained that the dates in question had already been approved by Senate and were not being debated.

Mr. Parent said that he agreed with Dr. Hoecker-Drysdale that these dates would work against students. If professors felt they did not have enough time to read the work and submit the grades they would be reluctant to grant permission for late completions.

Mr. Awasti asked if it would be appropriate to propose an amendment to the motion that paragraph No. 2 be amended to change the deadlines.

Dr. Byers reminded Council that the motion on the floor was to approve the paragraph in bold on page 2 of the document.

Dr. Valaskakis agreed with Dr. Byers that the motion on the floor dealt only with the phrase on page 2.

Mr. Awasti said that this document came as a whole. He understood that Council would vote on the motion but he intended to propose a motion at a later time that Paragraph No. 2 be amended or deleted.

Dr. Widden pointed out to Council that there was at least one course in the Faculty of Arts and Science where these dates were not viable. His field course came to an end the first week of September. The students had until the end of September to write up and submit their reports. Therefore, they would be completing a course at the end of September which would already be beyond the dates.

Dr. Valaskakis said that this issue would certainly be brought to Senate's attention.

Dr. Stevens explained further that this was intended for students who had already tried a course once and received an R grade in it; these were the students who could not be given an INC.

Dr. Gray said that he did not understand the wording as it was written to fit with Dr. Stevens' explanation.

Dr. Stevens asked if Dr. Gray would like to work on the wording.

Dr. Gray declined as he was still unclear as to the purpose of the motion.

Dr. Byers said that the motion was to delete a phrase in that section. At present students on probation or in conditional standing were not eligible to apply for late completion. If this phrase was deleted then all students would be eligible to apply. Therefore, the motion would improve the conditions for those students. This regulation stated that a certain group of students were not eligible for late completion. This change now allowed all students to apply.

Dr. Carter declared that she read the statement to mean that when students received an R in a course, they were not eligible to apply for late completion. R meant the student had to take the course again. If a student had to repeat a course they could not apply for late completion.

Dr. Pallen asked about the need to address this issue immediately and wished to know if it could not be brought back to a later meeting of Council.

Dr. Valaskakis explained that the change was to be discussed at Senate's Steering Committee on April 28. This Council would not meet again until May and that was the problem.

Dr. Bird said that the rule as it stood now applied to students who had an R; it applied to the student who had an A+/INC and wished to complete but was on probation. When the phrase in question was deleted, it would then apply only to the people with Rs. Students with INCs who were on probation would be

allowed to complete which they were not allowed to do at the present time.

Professor Brian said that the important phrase was "students on conditional standing" and this was to make life even easier for them.

Dr. Pallen said that if the R grade was eliminated it would create problems in the sciences for students who took a course and failed the lab section; these students could not take a supplemental and the R grade was the only means available to indicate this.

Dr. Pallen proposed an amendment to read "When students received an R grade for a course for the first attempt, they would not be eligible to apply for late completion when they repeated the course."

Dr. Gray said that it was not necessary to address this before it went to Senate. It seemed to him that Senate had moved independently on this issue already. He did not recall the other matters of the first page coming before this Council for discussion.

Dr. Hoecker-Drysdale concurred and said that she was quite alarmed at the idea that Senate would take up academic matters without discussion or the input of Councils. She would appreciate receiving more information or clarification on which academic matters Councils were not to discuss before they were discussed at Senate. She spoke against Dr. Pallen's amendment to the motion as it seemed to work against the students.

Dr. Byers made three points. He said that there seemed to be agreement to delete the phrase, "are on probation or in conditional standing". The second point was that there was a serious question developing about the R grade and its implications. The third point was that Council should forward a request to APC to be informed of these types of proposals before they were approved by Senate.

Dr. Carter expressed alarm at the thought that her office might be faced with innumerable requests to interpret a regulation that Council could not interpret. She was alarmed that if this were not passed today, it would that mean Senate would pass a motion that Council did not understand. She was also alarmed that this had to go to Senate without further clarification.

Dr. White commented that Mr. Noonan's memo was from APC to Faculty Deans not to Councils to take action. This was a request for input on what was at last May a proposed amendment. Presumably these changes had already gone into the Calendar.

Dr. Valaskakis said that all requests to her for academic input on any matter,

would always be brought to Faculty Council.

Ms. Foster and Dr. Stevens assured Council that the deadlines in question had been approved by Senate and were in the present calendar.

Ms. Beaudoin said that this would change or affect the lives of many students. She suggested Council should vote on the part dealing with "on probation or in conditional standing" and forget about the R grade portion.

Mr. Awasti said that because the procedures had not been followed correctly and the bylaws of the university had not been followed, there was a legal matter at issue.

Dr. Valaskakis assured Mr. Awasti that this was not so much a legal matter as it was a question of procedure.

92-3M-6 It was moved and seconded (Pallen/Knitter) that Motion 92-3M-5 be tabled and that Senate be informed that the Arts and Science Faculty Council would like the wording clarified.

Dr. Stevens pointed out that this was for the 1993/94 calendar. The other points in the document from Dr. MacKay are already in the 1992/93 calendar.

Dr. Byers reminded Council that the motion to table had not been voted upon. He reminded Council also that unless it acted on this motion today, there might be another year's delay before the regulations in the calendar could be changed.

Dr. Valaskakis called for the vote on the motion to table.

Motion Defeated

Dr. Hoecker-Drysdale called the question. Dr. Auchinachie seconded the call.

92-3M-5 It was moved and seconded (Stevens/Beaudoin) that Arts and Science Faculty Council approve Document ASFC 92-3M-E.

Carried; 2 abstentions

Dr. Hoecker-Drysdale asked if it could be clarified that Council was approving the elimination of the qualification but that the R problem remains.

Dr. Byers asked that APC be informed that the Arts and Science Faculty Council would like to be on their mailing list.

Dr. Gray said that we should also like to be informed, or asked for input, before decisions were taken.

Dr. Widden wanted to know what would happen to students who came in October for late completion if this had already gone into the calendar.

Dr. Stevens explained to Council that regulations were made for the majority of students. There were always exceptions and she was quite sure that Dr. Carter was clever enough to help these particular students.

Dr. Woodsworth said that her department had run into this problem with the internship program. They dealt with it by submitting INC grades until the students completed the work, then the department simply submitted a Change of Grade form.

Dr. Lewis asked about Items 1 and 2 on the document - were they now policy.

Dr. Stevens informed Dr. Lewis that they were.

Mr. Parent commented on the many deadlines that students were responsible knowing and expressed that these were growing in number. He also pointed out that many students did not read the calendar and got into situations which put them on probation or a standing lower than they where they would like to be. He understood that this motion was to aid students but there was also a flip side.

Dr. Widden said that Council should object to being bypassed when these regulations were put into place.

Dr. Pruska-Carroll pointed out that most Part-time contracts came to an end immediately after the end of the course; she wanted to know how these deadlines would affect them.

Professor Crysler explained that instructors were not obliged to give an incomplete grade and should not do so unless they were willing to do the work after the course ended.

92-3M-7

It was moved and seconded (Awasti/Beaudoin) that Item 2 be struck from the document and that this resolution be sent to Senate to show not only our displeasure that they had not consulted us but that this particular section was unacceptable to the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Dr. White said that there were other issues that should be looked at. Could the Curriculum Committee not look at these issues and report back to Council.

Dr. Valaskakis suggested to Council that the Curriculum Committee and Steering Committee should look at this document and bring it back to another meeting of Council.

92-3M-8 It was moved and seconded (Widden/Pallen) that Motion 92-3M-7 be tabled to the May meeting of the Arts and Science Faculty Council.

Carried.

Dr. Pruska-Carroll asked that the Curriculum Committee look into what the "four recent changes" mentioned in Dr. MacKay's memo were.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Dr. Valaskakis informed Council that the next meeting would be held May 8, 1992.

12. Adjournment

92-3M-9 It was moved and seconded (Byers/Potworowski) that the meeting be adjourned at 3:58 p.m.